

C. Huang et al.  
U.S. Serial No. 09/823,176  
Page 2 of 7

**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A substrate strip, which comprises:

(a) a frame having a pair of parallel supporting bars including a first supporting bar and a second supporting bar; and

(b) at least one substrate supported on the supporting bars, the substrate being linked to the supporting bars by means of no more than two external tie bars, wherein at least one external tie bar is arranged on a corner of the substrate, and at least two corners of the substrate are free of being provided with the external tie bars and allow the substrate to expand toward the at least two corners to relieve thermal stresses.

Claim 2 (original): The substrate strip of claim 1, wherein the substrate is dedicated for BGA application.

Claim 3 (original): The substrate strip of claim 1, wherein the substrate is linked to the frame by means of just two tie bars.

Claim 4 (original): The substrate strip of claim 3, wherein the two tie bars are arranged on two adjacent corners of the substrate.

Claim 5 (original): The substrate strip of claim 3, wherein the two tie bars are arranged on diagonally opposite corners of the substrate.

Claim 6 (original): The substrate strip of claim 3, wherein one of the two tie bars is arranged on one corner of the substrate and the other is arranged on one side of the substrate.

C. Huang et al.  
U.S. Serial No. 09/823,176  
Page 3 of 7

Claim 7 (original): The substrate strip of claim 1, wherein the substrate is linked to the frame by means of just one tie bar.

Claim 8 (original): The substrate strip of claim 7, wherein the just one tie bar is arranged on the substrate's gating corner.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A substrate strip, which comprises:

(a) a frame having a pair of parallel supporting bars including a first supporting bar and a second supporting bar; and

(b) at least one substrate supported on the supporting bars, the substrate being linked to the supporting bars by means of an external two-point linkage structure consisting of just two tie bars, wherein at least one tie bar is arranged on a corner of the substrate and linked to one of the supporting bars, and at least two corners of the substrate are free of being provided with the tie bars and allow the substrate to expand toward the at least two corners to relieve thermal stresses.

Claim 10 (original): The substrate strip of claim 9, wherein the substrate is dedicated for BGA application.

Claim 11 (original): The substrate strip of claim 9, wherein the two tie bars are arranged on two adjacent corners of the substrate.

Claim 12 (original): The substrate strip of claim 9, wherein the two tie bars are arranged on diagonally opposite corners of the substrate.

Claim 13 (original): The substrate strip of claim 9, wherein one of the two tie bars is arranged on one corner of the substrate and the other is arranged on one side of the substrate.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A substrate strip, which comprises:

(a) a frame having a pair of parallel supporting bars including a first supporting bar and a second supporting bar; and

C. Huang et al.  
U.S. Serial No. 09/823,176  
Page 4 of 7

(b) at least one substrate supported on the supporting bars, the substrate being linked to the supporting bars by means of an external one-point linkage structure consisting of just one tie bar arranged on a corner of the substrate and linked to one of the two supporting bars, and three corners of the substrate are free of being provided with the tie bar and allow the substrate to expand toward the three corners to relieve thermal stresses.

Claim 15 (original): The substrate strip of claim 14, wherein the substrate is dedicated for BGA application.

Claim 16 (original): The substrate strip of claim 14, wherein the just one tie bar is arranged on the substrate's gating corner.